

**THE WEEK AHEAD****WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 2**

Parish Office reopens with regular office hours

**THURSDAY – JANUARY 3**

RCIA – 7:00 p.m. – Church

**PRAYER REQUESTS****Please pray for the sick and suffering and their families of our parish and community:**

Betty Behlmer, Rick Blair, Danny Burgmeier, Bret Dwenger, Linda Dwenger, Paul Huber, Jacob Johnson, Rob Karmon, Clifford Knueven, Paul Koors, June Laudsburg, Jerry Mann, Aaron McCrary, Tim McNeal, David Miller, Larry & Nellie Pfeister, Gish Ray, Dottie Ricke, Lawrence Schoettmer, Delores Simon, Tom Striecker, Dona Thomas, Amy Tonges, Clarence Veerkamp, Andy & Regina Weaver & Gary Wilkerson.

**Please pray for all of our armed forces serving both abroad and in the U.S.**

**especially for:** Joe Davis, Chris Gauck, Adam Herbert, Jeff McNeal, Daniel Padgett & Francis Young.

If you have a friend or loved one that you would like to add to our prayer list, please call the parish office @ 663-8427. They will remain on our list for 4 weeks.

**WEBSITE**

[www.stmarysgreensburg.com](http://www.stmarysgreensburg.com)

**BULLETIN DEADLINE**

All bulletin articles will need to be in the office (e-mailed or written) no later than 11:00 a.m. on Monday.

[ddavis@stmarysgreensburg.com](mailto:ddavis@stmarysgreensburg.com)

**Holy Family/December 29-30**

The feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is a relatively new feast—added to the Church's calendar in the early part of the last century. During a season fostering the centrality of family, this feast emphasizes the unity and love so evident in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The core meaning of this feast is “we want to live as Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in peace with God and one another.” We want to live in the same kind of relationship with God that the Holy Family had with God. We want our families to be united in peace and in love.

**Mary, Mother of God/December 31-January 1**

Today's feast is known as the solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God and has an interesting history that dates as far back as the fifth century. The liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council restored the original Roman practice, which replaced the pagan celebration of the New Year, with this day in honor of Mary.

The following are the last sentences from Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, issued on Christmas 2005. They serve as a prayer to the Blessed Virgin:

Holy Mary, Mother of God, you have given the world its true light, Jesus, your Son—the Son of God.

You abandoned yourself completely to God's call and thus became a wellspring of the goodness which flows forth from him.

Show us Jesus. Lead us to him. Teach us to know and love him, so that we too can become capable of true love and be fountains of living water in the midst of a thirsting world.

Today is also the World Day of Peace. In 2000, the United Nations invited the world to begin what they called an “international decade for the culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world.” In December 2000, and again in 2006, Congress affirmed that every January 1 should celebrate peace and sharing.

**Parish Mission- February 24 – 28, 2008** - Friar Justin Belitz, OFM will lead our parish mission focusing on relationships. Relationships bring us great joy BUT can also bring pain and sorrow. This statement is true for us today as it has been for centuries. However, we all have free will. That means we can choose to enjoy all of our relationships, whether they are with ourselves, with others, with things, with life-experiences, or with God. The key is knowing how you relate and Understanding 7 principles that govern all relationships. Join us for our parish mission to learn more about strengthening your relationships. *“Relationships are essential to life. Use them to create a Full Life!”*

**Holiday Parish Office Hours**

The parish office is closed for the Holidays and will re-open January 2 with regular office hours. However, if you have an emergency or something that needs immediate attention, the answering machine in the parish office will be checked daily.

**New Years Mass Schedule**

**Monday, December 31** –New Years Eve/5:30

**Tuesday, January 1** – New Years Day/9:00 a.m.

## Welcome to 2008

A new year of grace from the Lord! A new year by which God is able to transform us more into the image of his Son, Jesus Christ.

As we begin this new year, we humbly submit, for your consideration, these Simple Liturgical Resolutions for the New Year, 2008.

1. I resolve in the next year to treat each Sunday Eucharist as the most important event of that week.
2. I resolve in the next year to do all I can to participate more fully in the celebration of the Sunday Mass.

For example:

- I resolve to sing all the songs and acclamations.
  - I resolve to respond in the liturgy with conviction and whole-heartedness.
  - I resolve to make use of the liturgical silence by praying as I've been invited to do.
3. I resolve in the next year to read prayerfully and carefully the Sunday scriptures at least once during the week before Mass.
  4. I resolve in the next year to arrive before Mass begins and to leave the church only after the liturgy has ended.
  5. I resolve in the next year to take part in at least two other liturgical celebrations of the Church, as they are celebrated in my parish, in addition to Sunday mass (e.g., one of the sacraments, seasonal Reconciliation services, prayer services, Morning or Evening Prayer, blessings, Eucharistic devotions, etc.)
  6. I resolve in the next year to take the dismissal of the Mass – “the Mass is ended, go in the peace of Christ to love and serve the Lord”—seriously, and to somehow make it real in my life during the week.
  7. I resolve in the next year to pay careful attention to the homily during Mass, in an attempt to hear the voice of the Lord speaking to me in relation to that day's scriptures.

**Parish Directories** are scheduled for delivery mid-January. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

### **School Secretary**

St. Mary Catholic School in Rushville, IN, is seeking a qualified person to assume the position of school secretary. Candidates should be committed to children and their education. Previous office or school experience is preferred. Please call Jann Metelko at 765-932-3639, ext. 228, or cell 317-448-3824.

### **Appreciation Dinner**

We, the Parish Staff at St. Mary's are proud of our volunteers! In appreciation, we cordially invite the volunteers and their spouses to a social hour on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00 p.m. followed by a dinner to be served at 6:00 p.m. Please RSVP by January 11 to 663-8427.

**Confirmation Date has been set** - Archbishop Buechlein will be here Sunday May 4 at 5:00 p.m. to celebrate. More information and practice times to be announced.



## Dear Community,

My best wishes to all of you for a Blessed and Happy New Year.

We will be celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of St. Mary's Church in 2008. If you have any suggestions for this celebration, please share your ideas with Joan Koors or any member of the liturgy committee.

Mass for New Year's Eve will be at 5:30 p.m. and only one Mass on New Year's day at 9:00 a.m.

We welcome Fr. Lucas Amandua, a diocesan priest from the Diocese of Arua, Uganda. He will reside in our rectory and help with our parish Masses for the next several weeks pending a grant from the University of Notre Dame for African Students. Fr. Lucas was born in 1944 and ordained in 1972. The Masters program he has applied for will begin in January or February pending clarification. He has a valid passport and his visa is an RI type that allows him to be paid.

The Roman Catholic denomination is the largest in the United States (sixty million). What is the second largest denomination in the United States? The answer: nonpracticing Catholics. There are approximately twenty million inactive Catholics in the United States. In any given Catholic parish, approximately fifty per cent of the registered parishioners do not attend Mass on any regular, weekly basis.

I will be away from the parish from December 26-December 31. I will be back in time for the evening Mass at 5:30 on December 31. Fr. Lucas will cover confessions and the weekday and weekend Masses while I am gone.

The morning after her angelic visitation, teenage Mary faced the stark reality of Nazareth gossip and the overwhelming fact that a child was already growing within her body.

A similar crisis faces all unmarried pregnant teenagers today. While Mary had the assurance that somehow God would take care of everything and that Jesus would be raised in the love of the Holy Family, modern unwed mothers usually face raising the child alone.

As the stability of marriage declines, the percentage of women who are unmarried when they have children increases. It has reached a record high, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Each year in the United States almost 1.5 million children are being born to unwed mothers, one third of all births in the country.

Our world desperately needs another visit from Gabriel.

Sorry no jokes. This letter is too long for my column.

Keep smiling, **Msgr. Knueven**

**MASS INTENTIONS****MONDAY – DEC. 31 – New Years Eve****5:30 p.m.** Kathleen (Katz) Scheidler**TUESDAY – JANUARY 1 – New Years Day****9:00 a.m.** Dick Baldwin**WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 2****7:15 a.m.** Richard Louden**8:30 a.m.** No School Mass**THURSDAY – JANUARY 3****7:15 a.m.** Frank & Regina Haskamp**2:30 p.m.** Carl & Jean Doerflinger  
(Odd Fellows Nursing Home)**FRIDAY – JANUARY 4****7:15 a.m.** Kathryn Tebbe**SATURDAY/SUNDAY – JANUARY 5/6****4:30 p.m.** Ralph Fry**7:00 a.m.** Loretta Bedel**9:00 a.m.** Herbert Wenning**11:00 a.m.** For all people**SERVERS****WEEKDAY/JAN. 2-4 (Weds., Thurs., Fri.)****7:15 a.m.** Erin & Allison Hamilton**MONDAY – DEC. 31 – New Years Eve****5:30 p.m.** Lyndsey Louder – Lillie Wolter**TUESDAY – JAN. 1 – New Years Day****9:00 a.m.** Jessica Hensley  
Miranda Kessens**SATURDAY/SUNDAY – JANUARY 5/6****4:30 p.m.** Corey Zeigler  
William Wattering**7:00 a.m.** Austin Diekhoff  
Shane Ploeger**9:00 a.m.** Alexandra & Mikayla Rather**11:00 a.m.** Travis & Craig Schebler**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS****MONDAY – DEC. 31 – New Years Eve****5:30 p.m.** Darlene Banks – Karen Conley  
Ed & Brenda Dwenger  
Carol Kramer – Priscilla Kramer**TUESDAY – JAN. 1 – New Years Day****9:00 a.m.** Carol Blasdel – Sally Koors  
Charles & Linda Greiwe  
Bernie & Janet Hagerty**SATURDAY/SUNDAY – JANUARY 5/6****4:30 p.m.** Jeremy Sherman – Irene Schutte  
Rachel Redmon – Emilie Pank  
Cynthia Nelson-Schlarb – Sandy Meyer**7:00 a.m.** Paul & Irene Schwering  
Phyllis Schwering – Linda Ricke**9:00 a.m.** Rita Schoentrup – Paulette Duerstock  
Barb Schasney – Shirley RyleBob Scheidler – Barb Noah  
Anita Navarra – Carol Kramer**11:00 a.m.** Tom & Jenny Schebler  
Diana Robbins – Maryellen Connor  
Keith & Penny Hipskind**LECTORS****MONDAY – DEC. 31 – New Years Eve****5:30 p.m.** Hugh Miller**TUESDAY – JAN. 1 – New Years Day****9:00 a.m.** Rosemary Schroeder**SATURDAY/SUNDAY – JANUARY 5/6****4:30 p.m.** Donna Stewart Johnson **7:00 a.m.** Scott**9:00 a.m.** Donna Swinford **11:00 a.m.** Monty Shields  
**Adoration Chapel** - We need **permanent adorers** for the following hours: **Saturday/1:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.** Please call Monica O'Brien at 663-2514 if you can take one of these hours or on a rotation basis. Also, adorers should plan in advance so that during the holidays you can cover your hour, or check with your hourly coordinator, if you are unable to find a substitute. Thanks!**Fr. Bill Burton's presentation** on Introduction to the Scriptures a few weeks ago was very enjoyable and informative. Fr. Bill is offering a set of 3, two-hour DVD's of his program. Each session provides background information from current Roman Catholic scholarship for understanding both the Old and the New Testaments.

Order forms are available at the back doors of church and at the parish office, with more information about the program.

**Virginia Wood**, a parishioner of our parish will need a ride to the 4:30 mass on Saturday evenings during the month of January. Prefer another lady or a married couple. If you can help please call the parish office – 663-8427.**Time to Sign-up***Christ Renews His Parish* (CRHP) is a process designed to bring members of a parish together in Christ. All of our commitments, including our commitment to Christ, need continued renewal if we are to be faithful. CRHP is an effective spiritual renewal process, which calls together the members of the parish in order to experience personal conversion and Christian community in the environment of our own parish.We are very excited about being able to offer this program at St. Mary's. **A men's weekend is scheduled for February 16 & 17. And a women's weekend is scheduled for March 1 & 2** and will take place here on the parish grounds. Our number will be limited to 20 for each weekend and is open to men and women who are at least 19 years old. CRHP is for anyone seeking spiritual renewal, desiring to build up the Body of Christ or gain a deeper sense of purpose within the parish community. Praying for guidance is important. If you feel that Christ, through the Holy Spirit is calling you - COME! Call the office to reserve your spot.**Ray Family** - If you would like to help the Ray (Mike, Gish, Courtney & Kristina) Family with a monetary gift an account has been set up at Fifth Third Bank for their benefit.

Dear Parishioners,

**“Five Good Reasons to Go to Mass”**

1. *God asked us to make one day holy.* Going to mass each week gives us a new perspective and we have the opportunity to reconnect spiritually. We can let go and allow God to be in charge. Going to Mass allows God to inspire us, guide us, and strengthen us for the week ahead.
2. *Jesus gave us the gift of himself.* When Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last supper he asked us to “Do this in remembrance of me.”(1 Corinthians 11:23-25).
3. *We need to be part of a community.* God created us with a need to be in communion with other people. At mass we can pray and worship God together. Our parish family supports, affirms, and encourages us as we strive to live the Gospel message. Together we are the Body of Christ.
4. *God has a special message for us.* As we listen to the readings, the homily, and the prayers of the Mass, we hear God speak to us and inspire our lives in some way. We have to be open to what the Lord is trying to tell us.
5. *We need to talk to God.* Mass gives us the opportunity to ask God for what we need, to thank God for the many blessing he gives, and to pray for strength to carry out His will. By singing and joining in communal responses we give our prayers to God.

Anita Navarra

**LAYPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD!**

This award will be presented at the Annual Appreciation Dinner in January. Nominations must be turned in to the parish office by January 6. Criteria: Person may not be paid for services, through service has given Christian Witness, and has received little or no notoriety for outstanding services rendered to the parish in a specific area or in a variety of service areas. The person may receive this award only once. No one may be nominated who is currently a member of the Parish Council and/or member of their immediate family.

In nominating a person, complete the following information and return it to the parish office by January 6. List various services and activities the person has rendered to the parish and attach a personal recommendation to this form.

Name & Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Service or Activity \_\_\_\_\_

Length of time service Given \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUTH NEWS**/Andi's e-mail: [andmackee44@yahoo.com](mailto:andmackee44@yahoo.com)

**Bible Verse of the Week:** "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." ~ John 1:14

**Random Question:**

*Last weeks answer:* One angel told the shepherds of Jesus' birth. That angel was then joined by a multitude of angels joined in singing praises to God.

*This week's question:* **The Scottish tune "Auld Lang Syne" is traditionally sung after the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve. What is the English translation?**

**Leader Board**

Stephanie Hoeing	5
Aaron Hoeing	3
Kelsey Johnson	4
Gina Ricke	3
Amanda Parker	2

**Penny War Update:** These are the results as of December 12<sup>th</sup>.

1st ~ 7th grade (17,030)	4th ~ Sophomores (5,908)
2nd ~ 8th grade (11,653)	5th ~ Freshmen (5,028)
3rd ~ Seniors (7,853)	6th ~ Juniors (4,024)

\*The penny war will go on until the end of Religious Ed. this school year.

**Bible Study:** St. Mary's Ultimate Bible Study (SMUBS) will begin Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the basement. It will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> (if there is one) and 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays of the month. SMUS will still be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday giving us a break between sessions. The first session will be lead by Kristy Lowe and focus on Old Testament stories and how they relate to your life. This is open to all High School Students.

**Information meeting for Summer Church Camp:** We will have an informational meeting for both the youth and parents on Sunday, **January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** in the Education Building behind the school. This is open to current Freshman through Seniors and any college students interested in joining us. If you cannot make the meeting and would like the information contact me ASAP.

**A Great Big Thank You:** Dear St. Mary's Youth,

Thank you guys so much for allowing us, the Bread of Life Soup Kitchen, to be blessed by your hard work on Halloween. We were completely overwhelmed by your generosity. Your efforts in collecting canned goods and money will help us serve many hungry people in our community. In just the last two months, we have served almost 3,000 meals. Thank you for your hearts of service. God used you in a very big way! Merry Christmas! The Greensburg Community Bread of Life

**Can Collection** – We are still collecting aluminum cans – bring yours to Msgr.'s garage anytime! This money collected will go towards helping the youth attend church camp.

**New St. Joseph Missals available at the parish office for \$5.00.**

**Prayer Basket**

Don't forget to put your prayer requests in the basket in the back of church. Prayer group will pray for each one at each meeting.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL**

**BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

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